

I want to emphasize this vote should have nothing to do with partisan politics. In fact, right now, a bipartisan group of legislators in the House and the Senate are hard at work to pass this bill for the timely release of funds. And for a generation, through administrations led by both parties, the United States has led the world in family planning programs. Studies show that our efforts, as part of an international strategy, have prevented more than 500 million unintended pregnancies.

Rapid population growth undermines economic and social development in poor countries. With our support for family planning, the scarce resources in developing countries—from infrastructure and environment to nutrition and education—can be better used to allow progress for their people.

Maintaining and building on this progress depends on our being consistent in our actions and adhering to our values.

Cooperative international efforts to address rapid population growth serve American foreign policy interests in protecting the Earth's environment, promoting human rights, and improving basic standards of health. It enhances the social, economic, and political status of women. It ensures global economic progress and strong markets for United States exports. It encourages international stability and it reduces pressures that lead to refugee flows and migration.

I appeal to the Members of Congress to examine the consequences of a delay, to weigh those against the benefits of fulfilling an urgent and continuing American commitment, and to vote for the March 1, 1997, unconditional release of these voluntary international family planning funds.

If Congress fails to take this simple action, we risk a cost to humanity that we will bear well into the next century.

Surely, we agree that we must do all we can to prevent unintended pregnancies and abortions. With passage of this bill, we can do that. The decision is now in the hands of the Congress.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Funds for International Family Planning

January 31, 1997

Dear _____:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 518A(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208) (the "Act"), I hereby find that the July 1, 1997, limitation on obligations imposed by subsection (a) of section 518A is having a negative impact on the proper functioning of the population planning program. Subject to a joint resolution of approval by the Congress to be adopted no later than February 28, 1997, as specified in section 518A(d) of the Act, funds for these activities may be made available beginning March 1, 1997.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and Robert L. Livingston, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 25

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the Alfalfa Club dinner in the ballroom of the Capital Hilton Hotel.

January 26

In the evening, the President hosted a Super Bowl party in the Family Theater at

the White House. After the game, he placed a telephone call to the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

January 29

The White House announced that the President will meet at the White House with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel on February 13; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority on March 3; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on March 10; and King Hussein I of Jordan on March 18.

January 30

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France concerning President Chirac's upcoming visit to Moscow.

The President announced his intention to appoint Paul P. Craig to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

The President released \$39 million in previously appropriated emergency funds to the Interior Department for restoration of public facilities and lands damaged by natural disasters in 1996.

January 31

The White House announced that the President invited President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to the United States for an official working visit in the last week of April.

The White House announced that Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal has accepted the President's invitation for an official working visit at the White House on April 3.

The President directed the Department of Health and Human Services to release \$210 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds for States, tribes, and territories nationwide.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 28

Federico Peña,
of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy, vice Hazel Rollins O'Leary, resigned.

Submitted January 30

Ann Jorgenson,
of Iowa, to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2002, vice Gary C. Byrne, resigned.

George W. Black, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2001 (reappointment).

Stanley A. Riveles,
of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Commissioner to the Standing Consultative Commission.

Richard J. Tarplin,
of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Jerry D. Klepner, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released January 28

Fact sheet on the report entitled "Support for a Democratic Transition in Cuba"

Statement by Office of Management and Budget Director Franklin D. Raines on the Congressional Budget Office's new budget forecast